

Message Text

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ACTION SCS-03

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SCA-01 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

DHA-02 L-03 H-01 /030 W

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R 081136Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6676
INFO AMCONSUL ADANA
AMCONSUL ISTANBUL
AMCONSUL IZMIR

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINS, CASC, TU
SUBJECT: ANTAKYA THREE; U.S. PRISONERS IN TURKEY

1. ON MARCH 7 DCM CONTACTED MFA DEPSECGEN FOR CONSULAR AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS ASIROGLU, TO INQUIRE AS TO STATUS OF GOT'S STUDY OF POSSIBILITY OF CONCLUDING MEXICANTYPE TREATY WITH THE U.S. FOR MUTUAL REPATRIATION OF PRISONERS. DCM NOTED THAT OVER TWO MONTHS HAD PASSED SINCE AMBASSADOR HAD BROACHED SUBJECT TO MFA SECGEN ELEKDAG. HE NOTED FURTHER THAT USG HAD NOW SIGNED A SIMILAR TREATY WITH CANADA. DCM SAID IT WAS HIS UNDERSTANDING THAT MATTER WAS NOW UNDER STUDY IN MINISTRY OF JUSTICE. ASIROGLU SAID HE WOULD LOOK INTO IT.

2. LATER SAME DAY, ASIROGLU GOT IN TOUCH WITH DCM TO REPORT THAT TREATY SUGGESTION WAS STILL BEING STUDIED BY MINISTRY OF JUSTICE. HE DID NOT KNOW WHEN STUDY WOULD BE COMPLETED.

3. COMMENT: WHILE LENGTHY STUDY OF A NEW PROPOSAL IS NOT UNUSUAL FOR CAUTIOUS GOT BUREAUCRACY, WE ARE BEGINNING
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TO BE CONCERNED AT LACK OF ANY INDICATORS OF POSITIVE GOT ATTITUDE TOWARD TREATY SUGGESTION. WE RECALL THAT LAST YEAR MINISTER OF JUSTICE FIRST DELAYED AND THEN BLOCKED SUBMISSION TO TURKISH PARLIAMENT OF PARDON PETITION FOR ANTAKYA GIRLS, DESPITE SYMPATHETIC SUPPORT EXTENDED BY FOREIGN MINISTRY. WE ARE CONCERNED LEST MINISTER MAY BE APPLYING SIMILAR DELAYING TACTICS TO TREATY PROPOSAL.

SINCE DEPARTMENT HAS TAKEN POSITION WITH FRIENDS OF ANTAKYA
GIRLS IN THE U.S. THAT TREATY ROUTE IS PREFERABLE,
I THINK WE SHOULD BECOME MORE ACTIVE IN OUR EFFORTS TO
ACHIEVE SUPPORT AND ACCEPTANCE FOR THIS FROM GOT.

4. RECOMMENDATIONS: UNLESS OTHERWISE INSTRUCTED, I
PLAN TO AVAL MYSELF OF FUTURE OPPORTUNITIES TO EMPHASIZE
TO FONMIN AND OTHER GOT LEADERS ADVANTAGES TO BOTH
COUNTRIES IF TREATY ROUTE ADOPTED AND THIS CONSTANT
IRRITANT TO U.S.-TURKISH RELATIONS BE REMOVED ON TERMS
ACCEPTABEL TO BOTH SIDES. I WILL MAKE FURTHER POINT
THAT SUCH A TREATY APPEARS TO US CONSISTENT WITH TURKISH
LAW NO. 647 AND TURKISH ADHERENCE TO EUROPEAN CONVENTION
ON INTERNATIONAL VALIDITY OF CRIMINAL JUDGMENTS. I ALSO
RECOMMEND THAT DEPARTMENT TAKE SAME LINE ON A CONTINUING
BASIS WITH AMBASSADOR ESENBEL AND WITH OTHER TURKISH
LEADERS WHO MAY BE VISITING WASHINGTON IN THE WEEKS AHEAD.
MACOMBER

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Message Attributes

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